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THE FARM BOYS' & GIRLS' 4-H CLUB CAMP

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A radio talk by G. E. Farrell, Extension Service, delivered through the network of 51 radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Saturday, June 6, 1931.

★ JUN 15 1931 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

One hundred and sixty farm boys and girls from forty states will camp for a week on the grounds of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The camp and the program are directed by the Extension Service of the Department.

Let us give a picture of the camp. Fifty pyramidal army tents are pitched on a wooded knoll on the Mall between thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets. To the north are the greenhouses of the Department, to the south is the new Department of Agriculture Building, and on the west the shaft of the Washington Monument stands out as the most impressive structure in this beautiful city.

The camp is equipped with electric light and all necessary conveniences. The camp is a model in equipment and arrangement.

Who are these 4-H Club boys and girls that are to have this week of recreation and study under the direction of the Department of Agriculture? How were they selected and what is the purpose of this National gathering? There are 840,000 farm boys and girls enrolled in the 4-H Clubs in the 48 States, Hawaii and Alaska. Each boy and girl has a home project. The better practices in agriculture and home economics are used. They have joined these clubs as a means of education and development. They want to become acquainted with the improved practices that the agricultural colleges and the U. S. Department of Agriculture are developing. More than six thousand college trained men and women direct the work of these clubs.

Each year the Department of Agriculture invites the colleges of agriculture to select two boys and two girls who have done outstanding work in the 4-H Clubs of the State and to send them to the National Camp for further training in recreation, citizenship and leadership.

The National 4-H Camp is an assembly of the most promising young citizens in agriculture and home economics. They have demonstrated for more than three years that they have capacity, initiative, perseverance, and leadership. The program for the camp is so arranged that every minute is provided for. These young people have been so carefully selected that the camp is operated without rules. Four years' experience has demonstrated that those who are selected to represent their state at the National Camp have learned to discipline themselves. Not once during that time has it been necessary to raise the question of conduct with a single member.

To those who are interested in seeing young, rural America at its best, the National 4-H Club Camp will offer an excellent opportunity.

The educational program of the camp is in keeping with the highest standard. The morning assembly will be addressed by men and women of national significance. The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Renick W. Dunlap; Lieu-

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tenant Commander C. E. Rosendahl, U. S. Navy; James C. Stone, Chairman of the Federal Farm Board; C. Francis Jenkins, investor; Mrs. Jane Deeter Rippin, national authority on girls' organizations, will be the speakers.

Each day during the week these outstanding farm boys and girls will get together for conference on matters of immediate interest to them. They are planning to devote the discussion period each day to the following topics: vocation, family relations, recreation, personal development and service.

The club members look forward to these meetings where an exchange of ideas is the most interesting part of the camp.

These young people are coming to Washington to become better acquainted with the Department of Agriculture. They will journey to Beltsville Farm to study the experimental work there. They will visit the Bureau of Home Economic to learn of the results secured in the experimental work dealing with the home. Arlington Farm with its numerous experiments in plant industry and agricultural engineering will require nearly half a day. Washington is a store-house or research and information but to youth it is a place of great historical significance. These 4-H Club members will journey to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to pay their respects to those who gave their all in defense of the flag. They will place a wreath on the Tomb of General George Washington and in this way prepare for the Bicentennial celebration of his birth which will occur next year.

The evenings of the National 4-H Club Camp are demonstrations of recreation at its best. Folk dances, music, camp fires and good fellowship make "taps" all too early.

These 4-H Club boys and girls will be in uniform. The boys will wear white and the girls green. The people of the city of Washington have come to know them favorably.

From reveille on June 17 to "taps" on June 23 the National 4-H Club Camp is a busy place. It trains farm boys and girls in leadership, citizenship and recreation that they may return to their homes to contribute the best to the development of a more satisfying rural life.